

MAGOR AND ST. MELLONS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1958

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MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE, 1958-1959

Chairman : Councillor W. T. Harris, O.B.E., M.C.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor R. E. Silvey

Councillor E. Bayliss.	Councillor G. T. Weekes.
„ S. V. Cox.	„ B. O. Davies.
„ C. J. Williams.	„ W. H. Sparkes.
„ A. C. Phillips.	„ H. M. Sullivan.
„ F. W. Richards.	„ Mrs. B. M. Stephens.
„ J. Price.	„ R. Davies.
„ C. T. Hackworthy.	„ Mrs. C. M. Davies,
„ S. Wills.	J.P.
„ H. Price.	„ H. M. Thomas.
„ W. D. Duthie.	„ Mrs. M. E. Jones.
„ E. Baker.	„ A. L. Pearce.
„ H. Harris.	„ O. Coleman.
„ D. G. Evans.	„ R. H. Addis.
„ W. H. Thomas.	„ H. David.
„ C. T. Pugh.	„ F. Jones.
„ Mrs. H. B. Rees.	„ A. E. Luker.
„ W. T. Stephens.	„ Mrs. R. M. Cooper.

Officers :

Clerk to the Council	... H. E. M. Keene, F. Comm. A.
Deputy Clerk and Chief Financial Officer	... D. C. V. Gwynn.
Medical Officer of Health	... K. P. Giles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	I. James, Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector	... A. H. Tomkins, Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Surveyor & Engineer	... H. Roberts, A.M.I.C.E.

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the

MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon general conditions of the Public Health for the year for the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons.

The report is drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 22/58 (Wales).

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population estimated for 1958	...	...	14,430
Area (consisting of 26 parishes)	...	...	43,217 acres
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,663
Rateable Value	...	...	£170,555
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	£652

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births (Male 119) (Female 124)	...	...	243
Legitimate	...	...	237
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	16.84
Still-births (Male 6) (Female 1)	...	...	7
Still births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	24
Total live and still-births	...	...	250
Infant deaths	...	...	8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—Total	...	...	32.92
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births Legitimate	...	...	32.92
Illegitimate	...	...	Nil
Neo Natal (first four weeks)	...	...	24.69
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	2.47
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	Nil
Live Birth Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	17.04
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	16.4
Still Birth Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	0.49
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	21.6
Infantile Mortality Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	25.81
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	22.5
Neo Natal Death Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	17.39
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	0.35

DEATH RATE.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was ...	168
(M. 95; F. 73) giving a Death Rate of 11.98 per 1,000)	
The Death Rate for England and Wales was ...	11.7
The Death Rate for Monmouthshire was ...	11.73

CAUSES OF DEATH

In the following table deaths are classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	Nil
Tuberculosis, other	Nil	Nil
Syphilitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
Measles	Nil	Nil
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	Nil	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	Nil	Nil
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms... ..	9	6
Leukaemia Aleukaemia	1	Nil
Diabetes	Nil	Nil
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	13
Coronary Disease, Angina	25	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease	Nil	4
Other Heart Disease	11	15
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	6
Influenza	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	2	3
Bronchitis	6	2
Other Disease of Respiratory System	Nil	Nil
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	Nil	Nil
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	Nil
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil
Congenital Malformations	Nil	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	5	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	Nil
All Other Accidents	1	1
Suicide	1	Nil
Homicide and Operations of War	Nil	Nil
	<hr/> 95	<hr/> 73

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health, two Public Health Inspectors (whole time Officers).

A contribution of one-half of the salaries is paid by the Monmouthshire County Council.

HOSPITAL HEALTH SERVICES, ETC.

Since 5th July, 1947, these are administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ETC.

The Monmouthshire County Council as Local Health Authority are responsible for the arrangements and Administration of the Services under Part III of the Act.

The following is a summary of these Services:—

- (1) Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- (2) Midwifery Services.
- (3) Health Visiting.
- (4) Home Nursing.
- (5) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (6) Ambulance Services.
- (7) Prevention of illness Care and After-Care.
- (8) Domestic Help.
- (9) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Act and Mental Deficiency Act.

MIDWIVES.

There is one full-time Midwife and three District Nurse/Midwives practicing within the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Whilst most of the Council's area is adequately served with piped supplies the following "pockets" remain without a sufficient and generally wholesome supply: Coedycerau area of Langstone—11 dwellings: Mynydd Allt Tir Vach area of Llanvaches—15 dwellings and the Craig-Ceiliog area of Bettws—7 dwellings. Most of these dwellings are dependent on "springs or wells" the water from which is of variable quantity and quality, whilst in a few cases rain water storage tanks are utilised.

Owing to the erection of Council Houses at Marshfield and complaints of inadequate pressure the main supply pipe is to be enlarged.

The piped supplies of water in this Rural District from water-works are "constant" and not intermittent and are not liable to plumbo-solvency action.

Work has been consistent throughout the year with regard to emptying of cesspools. The number increases year by year and the total number of cesspools within the area at the end of 1958 was 785; 907 emptyings were undertaken during the same period.

The majority of dwellings with pail or earth closets are those which belong to houses which are sub-standard, generally speaking, and the department is actively engaged in converting into water closets where possible, whilst the condemnation of premises also tends to lessen the number with the result that very few are remaining within the area.

Owing to the probable difficulty that would be experienced with the discharge of the effluent into the nearby stream from the proposed sewerage works at Henllys, consideration was given to a sewer being provided for the discharge of effluent in the Eastern Valley sewer.

The Consulting Engineer has also submitted a report on the following sewerage and water schemes required throughout the Council's district which has been adopted in principle, such schemes being as follows:—

- Cwm Lane, Rogerstone Sewerage Scheme.
- Henllys Sewerage Scheme.
- Marshfield Sewerage Scheme.
- Langstone Sewerage Scheme Part II.
- Llanwern Sewerage Scheme.
- Marshfield Water Scheme.

PARTICULARS OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES IN EACH PARISH.

A.—By Local Authority or Statutory Water Undertakers.

PARISH	Number of Dwelling Houses	Number Supplied	Estimated Population	Approximate Population Served
Rogerstone	1844	1833	5708	5670
Graig	503	480	1558	1484
Marshfield	303	291	928	900
St. Mellons	320	307	990	950
St. Brides W.	59	58	183	180
Peterstone W.	48	47	149	146
Henllys	101	81	313	250
Bettws	43	33	133	102
Michaelstone-y-Vedw	63	47	195	146
Langstone	292	278	903	859
Llanwern	96	95	298	294
Bishton	77	75	239	232
Kemeys Inferior	43	27	133	84
Llanmartin	74	70	229	217
Llandavenny	10	10	31	31
Nash	92	90	285	278
Goldcliffe	58	56	180	173
Whitson	18	17	56	53
Redwick	57	57	177	177
Penhow	101	87	312	269
Wilcrick	5	5	16	16
Magor	183	182	566	563
Llanvaches	72	31	223	96
Duffryn	109	100	338	309
Lower Machen	38	18	118	56
Coedkernew	54	45	167	139

B.—Private Supplies.

Rogerstone	... Given above	7	Given above	22
Graig	... „	17	„	53
Marshfield	... „	9	„	28
Michaelstone	... „	8	„	25
Llanvaches	... „	16	„	50
St. Mellons	... „	10	„	31
Lower Machen	... „	10	„	31
Coedkernew	... „	8	„	25
Hennlys	... „	10	„	31
Kemys Inferior	... „	3	„	9
Llanmartin	... „	1	„	3
Bettws	... „	3	„	9
St. Brides	... „	1	„	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,663	14,430	13,994
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	102
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	—
(iii) By other Bodies or persons	...	...	49

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

The Regulations came into force on 1st January, 1956, and it is now essential to bring in a substantial supply of hot water in order that hands may be frequently washed when dealing with food stuffs requiring it.

The Regulations apply to a much wider range of premises than hitherto and this provision must be complied with in relation to all premises where "a food business" is carried on. Regulations apply to all cases where food is handled whether or not there is any question of sale or exposure for sale.

In brief the Regulations require the following matters:—

- (1) The cleanliness of food premises, equipment and containers.
- (2) The protection of food from the risk of contamination.
- (3) The personal cleanliness of all persons engaged in the handling of food.
- (4) The carriage and wrapping of "open food" (i.e. food not contained in a container of such materials and so closed, as to exclude all risk of contamination).
- (5) Persons engaged in the handling of food who are suffering from certain infections, such as staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning.
- (6) The provision of a clean, wholesome, adequate and constant water supply.
- (7) The provision of wash-hand basins and washing facilities for persons engaged on the handling of food.
- (8) The provision of facilities for the washing of food and equipment.

Numerous shops supplying foods have been approached with regard to installing washing facilities and so far most of these have now complied with the Regulations. There are a few outstanding cases which have not yet done so.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954, Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 to 1954, Milk Regulations 1949 to 1954.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954, came into operation on the 1st April, 1954, in respect of this Rural District.

This meant that all milk retailed within the area must be sold under a Special Designation, the Special Designations authorised being Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested.

By virtue of the above-mentioned Regulations certain other changes in the law relating to Special Designated milk came into force on 1st October, 1954.

Firstly, producers licences to use the Special Designation "Accredited" expired and were not thereafter renewable. Dairy-men who until then had retailed "Accredited" milk in a specified area had to sell or supply Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested milk.

Secondly, every container (whether churn, can or bottle) in which Pasteurised milk is transported, exposed or offered for sale, is required to be fitted with a cap or cover overlapping the lip of the container, or closed and fastened in some other suitable manner approved by the licensing authority.

Lastly, pasteurisers are now required to put the milk into containers in which it is to be delivered to the customers at the premises at which milk is pasteurised, and as soon as possible after pasteurisation. Accordingly the sale of pasteurised milk by can and dipper became illegal.

PREVALENCE OR, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Public Health Inspector after the receipt of a notification. Where necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of the patient to an Isolation Hospital, if accommodation is available.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is carried out at the Laboratory. From the 24th June, 1957, the address of the Medical Research Council was altered from the County Hall, Newport, and became the Public Health Laboratory, Clytha Square, Newport, Mon.

There has been another change in Immunisation procedure. The combined immunisation against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria has been discontinued owing to the considered risk of rendering patients more susceptible to attack by Poliomyelitis by the combined Immunisation.

In future all Immunisation is carried out separately for Whooping Cough and Diphtheria.

Three injections are given against Whooping Cough followed by two injections against Diphtheria.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis has also been started.

The following are the particulars relating to Whooping Cough and Diphtheria Immunisation and Poliomyelitis Vaccination performed during the year 1958 in respect of the Council's area:—

Whooping Cough

0- 4 years	...	...	138
5-14 years	...	...	2

Diphtheria

Under 1 year	...	...	82
1- 4 years	...	...	44
5-14 years	...	...	3

Booster Doses

1- 4 years	...	...	2
5-14 years	...	...	2

Poliomyelitis

Under 1 year	90
1- 4 years	13
5-14 years	Nil
Over 15 years	2

Booster Doses

Over 15 years	4
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Notifiable Diseases.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, according to Age Groups for 1958.

DISEASE	Cases Notified.										Deaths.										Age Groups.					Admitted to Hospital	
	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over		Total all ages
Diphtheria	1	2	5	1	9
Scarlet Fever
Enteric Fever
Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enceph, Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles and German Measles	1	6	6	10	21	34	4	2	...	...	...	...	84	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	2	...	2	3	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	7	8	13	24	42	6	7	2	1	...	2117	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	5	7

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1958.

Age groups	New Cases					Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-15 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-25 "	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25-35 "	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
35-45 "	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
45-65 "	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
65 and up	..	..	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1
Total	2	2	1	2	7	1	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis compares favourably with other areas. Generally speaking, there is a marked decline in the number of cases throughout the country and it is hoped that this decline will continue.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning reported during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH P. GILES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

Council Offices,

Baneswell,

Newport, Mon.

Telephone: Newport 64181.

MAGOR AND ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I have much pleasure in submitting a brief report on certain aspects of Public Health and Housing within the area.

Health and education are subjects of paramount interest to every human being; it must always have been so and must inevitably so continue. To some people, perhaps, health seems relatively unimportant. Whilst enjoying, or possibly, unaware of good health, people engrossed in their careers, their studies or hobbies, may relegate the subject to the background. But it takes very little in the way of ill health to put the question back into proper perspective.

Health education may be taken to mean the imparting of knowledge relating to health to the public, whether it be to sections or individual members. How this information is imparted is of importance to us as a body of health officials.

However, the Public Health Department plays an important role in the sphere of health education and has a large field open to them. If public health workers confine their activities to the implementation of statutory obligations, I feel that they do not really do their job. These statutory duties form the operational framework within which they operate but no officer should be content with the role of automation concerned solely with the routine performance of tasks placed before him. As time goes on, proposals in nearly all fields of study are open to advancement and more and more open spaces ready for uncovering are always present on matters concerning health.

New legislation is always carried forward for the Health Department to place before the public for enlightenment. Notably, this year the Clean Air Act came into force, the appointed day being June 1st. Waves of public feeling against atmospheric pollution was a sound indication of the determination to do something about this age old problem. The provisions of the Act include those relating to the prohibition of dark smoke to chimneys, measures for dealing with grit and dust from the furnaces, abatement of smoke nuisances and the application of the Act to railway engines and vessels, etc.

The everlasting important question of housing is still and will be for some considerable time in the forefront for discussion by local authorities. One cannot deny that one of the most important problems in the field of housing is at present the older and sub-standard houses. Those which have outlived their useful lives have been dealt with under the Slum Clearance problem. The aim of any housing policy is to secure for every family in the land a home in which they can live a full, happy and contented life. This implies that it must not only be structurally sound and free from any defects which would render it unfit for human habitation by the standards of the Housing Act, 1957 but also satisfy modern standards of comfort and convenience. The real problem is how to secure modernisation of houses i.e. not only making a house fit for human habitation as understood by the 1957 Act but providing it with all the amenities of a modern home. I feel that there is a call for new legislation to empower local authorities to enforce the modernisation of houses where owners have failed to carry out the work. Although, over a length of time, governments have recognised the need to encourage house owners to improve the comforts and amenities of their properties and despite the fact that the improvement grant schemes have resulted in the modernisation of thousands of homes it has not been fully successful. It is felt that a pure voluntary scheme was never likely to work entirely satisfactorily and that what is wanted are powers for local authorities to insist on the modernisation of suitable houses where the owners have refused to do the work voluntarily. Such a plan would form a natural extension to the traditional responsibility of local authorities for housing conditions in their areas. If adopted, local authorities would be able to require owners to carry out the work needed to bring these houses up to the required standard with the provision that the owner would be entitled to the grants on at least the same scale as those for improvement works. The scheme, naturally, should only apply to houses with a reasonable expectation of life.

I must also mention the Litter Act, 1958, which came into force on 7th August, 1958. It now makes it an offence for the unauthorised leaving of litter when it is thrown down, dropped or otherwise deposited in, into or from any place in the open air to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access without payment and makes the offender liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds. When the anti-litter Act became law, many people believed that this was an attempt to "clean up" the country which was long overdue. Apart from the argument as to whether or not the Act is having any effect, it is a genuine attempt to create a litter-free country.

40 Improvement Grants were made during the year.

19 Unfit houses were dealt with by the Council under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS.

The following is a summary of work carried out as a result of 44 informal and 9 abatement notices served upon the owners concerned:—

Number of walls made damp proof	...	...	23
„ „ sash cords provided to windows	...	...	18
„ „ windows and window frames repaired	...	...	13
„ „ roofs repaired	...	...	21
„ „ gutterings and downpipes repaired	...	...	19
„ „ doors repaired and renewed	...	...	7
„ „ floors repaired or relaid	...	...	9
„ „ ceilings repaired	...	...	20
„ „ skirting boards repaired	...	...	6
„ „ chimneys repaired	...	...	8
„ „ drains repaired and cleansed	...	...	25
„ „ sinks provided	...	...	4
„ „ W.C. cisterns, flush pipes and service water pipers	...	...	7
„ „ W.C. pans and W.C. structures repaired or renewed	...	...	11
„ „ grates repaired or renewed	...	...	14
„ „ cesspools made good	...	...	12

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Most local authorities have difficulty in keeping the rat population static and much time is involved in carrying out the necessary routine work of disinfection.

Reductions of infestations are evident over a length of time but complete extermination is out of the question even though strong poisons are used to kill every live rodent.

The most common of poisons used by the Department is Warfarin.

The dangers of Warfarin poisoning to animals other than rodents are becoming increasing in number. The particular toxic properties of Warfarin, most valuable in the campaign against rats and mice,

have lead to some carelessness in use and a tendency to assume that it is harmless to human beings and animals.

Fortunately, no such case has occured within the area.

A well trained rodent operative carrying out his work should not only use the poisons as an expert to destroy rodents, but be able to teach persons to face up to their responsibilities and to co-operate as much as possible with the local authority and thus minimise the creating of infestations through careless handling of food and eventually removing the reservoir of food which the rodents must seek and obtain for the survival of life.

Most of the operative's time has been spent in carrying out disinfestations when they occur at private properties with the necessary following up visits at some later date. Time was also spent with the disinfestation of business premises where a reasonable charge was made to cover the cost of the work involved.

The usual two treatments of routine disinfestations of sewers were carried out during the year with satisfactory results.

During the year 261 private and other premises were treated with satisfactory results; 28 routine treatments were carried out on the Council's refuse tips.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notified infectious diseases were visited and investigated and terminal disinfection carried out when necessary.

Visits made	...	...	54
Houses disinfected	...	...	12
Patients removed to hospital	...	...	6

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of houses supplied from public water mains:—

(i) Direct to the houses	...	4,420
(ii) By means of stand-pipes	...	9

Approximate population supplied by public water mains:—

(i) Direct to the houses	...	13,658
(ii) By means of stand-pipes	...	28

PIPED SUPPLIES.

8 samples of treated supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory. These samples were taken from the Council's, Cardiff and Newport Corporation supplies at various points within the area.

A further 37 samples of untreated supplies were also submitted for bacteriological examination, out of which 21 were unsatisfactory.

154 connections from the Council's and the Newport Corporation water mains were carried out during the year; of this number 151 were to new houses occupied during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1950, relating to sanitary and other arrangements in shops.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 6 butcher's shops within the area. There are no licensed private slaughterhouses, the meat for sale in these shops being collected from neighbouring public and private slaughterhouses.

4 applications were received for licences to slaughter pigs only, all of which were granted by the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947—

SECTION 17.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Caravans of different types in the past were, in the main, used for holiday and recreational purposes only and gave rise to some problem during their seasonal occupation. Today the position is more definite in its outlook for as time has elapsed and especially since the war, caravans have become used increasingly as homes and are creating difficult problems for local authorities.

Some people, for a variety of reasons, prefer life in a caravan to living in a house; others require the mobility the caravans afford because their employment requires that they shall be able to move readily to any part of the country. A section of the community has been driven to caravan life by the difficulty of obtaining accommodation, whilst some single folk wishing to marry and set up home, find it difficult to bear the financial burden cast on their shoulders required in living in a permanent home.

As people are to continue to live permanently in caravans, which is becoming increasingly apparent from day to day; it is important that they and the sites on which their caravans rest, conform to recognised public health standards. Conditions which can be tolerated for a few weeks may become intolerable for all the year occupation.

Regular visits were made during the year to the 3 caravan sites at St. Brides, with particular emphasis on the structural type of caravan allowed on the sites and the standard of conditions of occupation required and I am pleased to report that no serious problems arose during such visits. The sites were satisfactorily maintained with strict adherence to the requirements of good management with the public health aspects always in the forefront.

Regular visits were also made and the same standards applied to the individual caravans situated throughout the area with the same satisfactory results.

However, in one instance during the year, legal proceedings were instituted before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction against the person named below for contravening the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 for stationing a caravan for more than 42 consecutive days without a licence from the Council.

Name	Date of Hearing	Site	Decision
Mrs. I. Phillips	5. 12. 58	Roadside, Duffryn.	£1 fine and if not re- moved, a continuing fine of 5/- per day.

I would like to thank the Planning Department of the County Council for the willing and prompt assistance given whenever any planning problem arose.

23 applications were received to station caravans in different parts of the area, all of which were granted until 31st December, 1958, when the applications would again be reviewed for a further 12 months.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.)

REGULATIONS, 1947-1952.

The usual necessary periodical inspections of all the registered premises for the sale of Ice-cream were carried out during the past 12 months.

The full co-operation of all retailers was received during visits of inspections and taking of samples.

Inasmuch as there are no premises registered within the area to manufacture ice-cream the trend of the retailers is to purchase ice-cream pre-packed from manufacturers outside the area.

During the course of the visits no adverse conditions were noted.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The last 18 months have brought a refreshing change in the public attitude towards clean food.

The introduction of Food Hygiene Regulations in January, 1956 has been a nation wide awakening of hygiene consciousness. Clean food awareness is also apparent in the number of requests that Public Health Inspectors are receiving to give talks or answering questions on the Food Hygiene Regulations—an unexpected but pleasant change from the past when public health workers generally had to take the lead in the face of public indifference.

The credit, is of course, largely due to the local authorities themselves; with but a few exceptions, they have used the last 18 months or so to create an atmosphere in which both traders and the public have become anxious to see the Regulations observed and much has been, and will be, achieved through consultation between officers of the local authorities and food traders. There will naturally be many obstacles to overcome before the Regulations are observed by everyone.

Generally speaking shop-keepers have responded not only to the letter but to the spirit of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Occasionally one sees signs "NO DOGS" boldly exhibited at the door of food shops but it is of little avail however, to try and prevent animals from breaking regulations when human transgressions are allowed to continue unchecked. Similarly, it is not the smoke nor the ash which

causes the danger to public health from cigarette smoking in food premises. The legislators were anxious to prevent the contamination of food from the soiled hands of the food handler who, when smoking, would be liable, if not likely, to transfer mouth moisture and germs on to the food through the handling of the cigarette at the same time as handling food. Again when a cigarette is taken out of the mouth and placed on the counter, the wet end of the cigarette can contaminate either the counter and thereby food afterwards placed on it, or food touched by the cigarette or both.

By and large, the food trader within the area engaged in shop, factory and catering premises is co-operative when dealing with officers of the local authority and in the majority of cases the equipment and practices are of such a standard that recourse to legal action in the Courts is necessary only in most exceptional circumstances. Almost every food handler recognises the need of food hygiene control and a reasonable approach from the local authority will engender an acceptance of advocated practices and a compliance with requirements, often beyond those capable of legal enforcement.

Happily, very little of the outdoor food trade is experienced within our area as the increasing number of food retailers particularly in rural areas and suburban housing estates are now operating from mobile food shops which are of such design and are so equipped that the most hygiene conscious critic can offer nothing but approbation.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Since 1949, when the present day legislation in the form of the Milk and Dairies Regulations and the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations were introduced, important and far reaching changes have been made. The progress of the specified areas where only designated milk i.e. Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested can be sold; the gradual extension of the Tuberculosis eradication of attested areas, and the Regulations whereby Pasteurised Milk can only be bottled and kept on the premises where it is processed are a few of the measures which have combined to reduce hazards which accompanied milk production and distribution prior to 1949.

In 1949 the control of milk produced at farms was taken away from the Local Authority and has been administered since by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

As far reaching as changes have been over the years, when in relatively short space of time the trade has progressed from the "Can and Dipper" days to the modern processing plant, the next few years must see further progress. When all herds are tested and free from Tuberculosis and the majority producing Tuberculin Tested milk, it seems feasible that the only milk on the liquid market will eventually be Tuberculin Tested Heat Treated milk, for with the development of high temperature methods of heat treatment Sterilised milk as we know it today will in my opinion disappear.

Most of the milk produced within the area is sold wholesale to the large pasteurising establishments and the majority of distributors obtain their designated milk already bottled from these depots.

61 licences to retail designated milk were issued and 48 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination 2 of which were unsatisfactory.

HOUSE REFUSE.

Until June, a weekly collection of house refuse was carried out in the Parishes of Llanwern, Graig, Duffryn, Rogerstone and St. Mellons and a fortnightly collection in the remaining parishes of the district. After that time a weekly collection was in operation in all parishes.

Disposal is by means of tipping at Bettws and Magor, and occasioned no serious nuisances.

In addition to the regular routine treatment in connection with rodent control, both tips were given dressings with a D.D.T. base during the summer months in order to control insects pests.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. JAMES,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958,
for the Rural District of Magor & St. Mellons in the County of
Monmouth.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

**1.—INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS
AS TO HEALTH.**

(including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises 1	M c line No. 2	Number on Register 3	Number of		
			Inspections 4	Written Notices 5	Occupiers Prosecuted 6
1. - Factories in which Sections 1, 2 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	5	...	...
2.—Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	2	34	60	..	...
3.—Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises.)	3	9	22	...	...
Total		45	87	...	...

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars. 1	M c Line No. 2	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted 7
		Found 3	Remedied 4	Referred to H.M. Inspector 5	by H.M. Inspector 6	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	7	...	...	..	...	...
Infective drainage of floors(S.6)	8	...	...	..	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	...	...	...	..	...
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	10	2	2	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (not including offences relating to homework)	12	...	...	..	...	...
Total		2	2	...	...	...





